

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
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INFO USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY
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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CASC, LA, VN, CB, US

SUBJECT: REPORT OF HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON MIA'S

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1. SELECT COMMITTEE DECEMBER 15 RELEASED ITS FINAL REPORT
ON AMERICANS MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. MAJOR CONCLUSIONS
AND RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDE:

--COMMITTEE'S BELIEF THAT NO REPEAT NO AMERICANS ARE STILL
BEING HELD ALIVE AS PRISONERS IN INDOCHINA, AND THAT DOD

SHOULD BEGIN INDIVIDUAL CASE REVIEWS AS PRESCRIBED BY LAW.

-- TOTAL ACCOUNTING BY INDOCHINESE GOVERNMENTS IS NOT POSSIBLE, BUT PARTIAL ACCOUNTING IS POSSIBLE. (REPORT CITES, FOR EXAMPLE, RETURN OF POSSIBLY 150 BODIES AS REASONABLE EXPECTATION.)

-- MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO OBTAIN ACCOUNTING IS THROUGH DIRECT GOVERNMENTAL DISCUSSIONS WITH INDOCHINA COUNTRIES. STATE DEPARTMENT SHOULD PROMPTLY ENGAGE THESE GOVERNMENTS IN SUCH DISCUSSIONS. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD MAINTAIN POW/MIA OVERSIGHT CAPABILITY IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO MONITOR SUCH TALKS.

2. IN ADDITION, COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT STATE DEPARTMENT:

-- IMMEDIATELY UNDERTAKE INDIVIDUAL CASE REVIEWS OF MISSING AMERICAN CIVILIANS;

--HAVE OUR EMBASSY IN VIENTIANE CONTINUE TO EXPLORE WAYS TO OBTAIN ACCOUNTING FROM LPDR;

--MAKE CONTINUED EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH COMMUNICATIONS WITH CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT TO GAIN ACCOUNTING;

--ASSURE THAT ANY NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH INDOCHINA NATIONS BE PREDICATED ON AS COMPLETE AND ACCURATE AN ACCOUNTING FOR MISSING AMERICANS AS POSSIBLE, INCLUDING RETURN OF ALL RECOVERABLE REMAINS, EITHER PRIOR TO OR CONCURRENT WITH SUCH NORMALIZATION;
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-- ASSURE THAT ANY DISCUSSIONS BE GUIDED BY PRINCIPLES THAT VIETNAMESE HAVE HUMANITARIAN OBLIGATION TO ACCOUNT FOR MISSING REGARDLESS OF STATUS OF PARIS AGREEMENT; THAT A MECHANISM SUCH AS JOINT COMMISSION OR LIAISON OFFICE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN VIETNAM TO FACILITATE ACCOUNTING; THAT TALKS SHOULD SEEK TOTAL RATHER THAN PIECEMEAL SOLUTION AND SHOULD EMPHASIZE FUTURE OF AMERICAN/INDOCHINESE RELATIONS RATHER THAN PAST;

-- CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF HUMANITARIAN AID, BUT NO WAR REPARATIONS, IN DISCUSSIONS OF FOREIGN POLICY ASPECTS OF THIS ISSUE;

-- USE DOD EXPERTISE IN ANY TALKS;

-- RAISE ISSUE IN ALL POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL FORA IF INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES CONTINUE TO REFUSE TO PROVIDE

ACCOUNTING;

-- PERIODICALLY ASK INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO
INTERCEDE WITH INDOCHINESE GOVERNMENT FOR ACCOUNTING.

3. REPORT IS GENERALLY COMPLIMENTARY OF DEPARTMENT OF
STATE EFFORTS TO OBTAIN ACCOUNTING FOR POW/MIA'S, BLAMING
LACK OF FULL ACCOUNTING ON "RECALCITRANCE AND INTRANSI-
GENCE OF INDOCHINESE COMMUNIST LEADERS."

4. FOUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS SUBMITTED SEPARATE OPINIONS.
CONGRESSMEN MOAKLEY AND OTTINGER CALLED FOR "A LITTLE
MORE SKEPTICISM" IN ITS ASSESSMENT OF SECRET DIPLOMACY IN
"PRODUCING STALEMATE IN WHICH WE NOW FIND OURSELVES."
CONGRESSMEN GILMAN AND GUYER CALL FOR CONTINUATION OF
SELECT COMMITTEE, DISAGREE ON RECOMMENDATION THAT CASE
REVIEWS BE REINSTATED, OBJECT TO REPORT STATING A POSSIBLE
FIGURE OF MIA'S WHOSE REMAINS COULD BE RECOVERED (150),
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AND CALL FOR USG TO PROVIDE SOME CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE
GESTURE TO FACILITATE ACCOUNTING.

5. DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN WAS NOT ASKED ABOUT REPORT AT
NOON BRIEFING DECEMBER 16. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE HAS BEEN
PREPARED FOR USE ON IF ASKED BASIS: "WE ARE NOW STUDYING
THE REPORT IN DETAIL. FOR OUR PART, WE WILL CONTINUE OUR
EFFORTS TO OBTAIN AN ACCOUNTING FOR MIAS. WE WILL ALSO
TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS OF THE COMMITTEE ON NEGOTIA-
TIONS."

6. COPIES OF SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE REPORT ALREADY FORWARDED
TO ALL ADDRESSEES. COPIES OF FULL TEXT WILL BE POUCHED
WHEN AVAILABLE.
ROBINSON

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